



July 20, 2010

Dear Child Care Provider:

I'm asking for your help in turning last year's flu pandemic experience into a lasting benefit for our community.

Last year was a crazy time. In the midst of all your day-to-day activities of taking care of children of all ages, we, at the health department asked for your help in controlling the H1N1 influenza pandemic. I can't thank you enough for all of the effort we got from day care providers in trying to stop the spread of this disease.

I'm sure I'm not telling you anything new when I tell you that parents view you as experts in all things children. This means that you have a huge influence in teaching our parents the importance of getting their kids vaccinated. Achieving "herd immunity" or getting enough kids vaccinated so that the disease has a hard time spreading from person to person is our goal with every vaccine. This is how our society was able to eradicate diseases like polio; the germs simply didn't have anywhere to go. We can do the same thing with flu with help from community partners like you.

This year, I need your help again to help our community in making sure all of your kids (and their parents) get the flu vaccine. We will do our part in supporting your effort; fliers, websites, posters...you let us know what you need to get the message across. And if it's vaccine you need, there are mass immunizers that will actually assist you to hold your own clinics, and we'll help you with that too!

Please start thinking about your flu strategy now and let us help. Call Maricopa County Public Health's Child Care Nurse Consultant hotline at 602-506-6380 or email Tonya Toussaint at TonyaToussaint@mail.maricopa with any questions about this year's flu season or health care related questions for your child care center. You can also visit StopTheSpreadAZ.org where we will soon begin posting info.

Thank you!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Bob England, MD, MPH".

Bob England, MD, MPH
Director
Maricopa County Public Health

